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been read before the Academy, June 18th, 1839, although not actually published in the Journal until January, 1840.

Prof. Gibbes in stating that several of Dr. Randall's specimens had been lost, has overlooked Xantho intonsus Rand., which is still in the cabinet of the Academy. But one other species is omitted in Prof. Gibbes' list, Astacus Oregonus, which was lost or destroyed while in the hands of the artist by whom the drawing, published in the eighth volume of the Journal, was made.

The Committee to which was referred Mr. Peter A. Browne's paper on the hair of the Ornithorynchus paradoxus, reported that in consequence of the author's observations having been already anticipated by a number of distinguished naturalists and others, the Committee deem it inexpedient to recommend Mr. Browne's paper for publication.

In accordance with a resolution offered at last meeting of business, a life membership was conferred on Dr. J. K. Townsend, in return for his numerous valuable contributions to the Cabinet, at various times.

ELECTION.

M. Alfred Malherbe, President of the National Academy of Metz, in France, was elected a *Correspondent*, and Charles M. Wheatley, Esq., of New York, was elected a *Member* of the Academy.

April 2d.

DR. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, dated March 26th, 1850, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. 3, No. 3, and Vol. 4, Nos. 9—12, of the Proceedings, and Vol. 8, Part 2, first series of the Journal.

Also a letter from Mr. James Deane, offering to prepare for publication in the Journal of the Academy, a paper on the fossils of the new red sandstone of the Connecticut valley. Referred to the Publication Committee.

Dr. Morton, on resigning the chair to Mr. Vaux, then read a further continuation of his paper on the size of the brain in the various races of man.

The following is an analysis of this portion of the Memoir:—

In regard to the diversity of the human species, some ethnologists account for it by supposing changes to be effected by varieties in food, vicissitudes of climate, and other physical agents. Others again attribute the differences to the rise of accidental varieties, by which individuals have been produced, from whom, at first, tribes, then races and nations have sprung in succession.

If, therefore, we suppose all mankind to have been originally white, the hypothesis would necessarily require that negroes must be a mere accidental variety. This is Dr. Prichard's view of the case.

Dr. Morton said analogical reasoning, based upon the known changes which occur among the lower animals, would lead us into error if applied to Man. For instance, the Reindeer of Lapland do not change in the slightest particular after long domestication. The Peacock, also, has not varied during thousands of years, unless some few tints originally perfectly *blue* may have become greenish. Other instances of this kind might be enumerated.

Again, some animals in a very short time, in two or three generations, become entirely changed in color, as the Guinea pig and the turkey. Sometimes even the anatomical structure undergoes material changes under the influence of domestication; for instance, in the common pigeon, (*Columba livia*,) the sheep and the dog. He particularly directed attention to the fact that some animals in the *wild state* undergo remarkable changes; the Black squirrel and the Red squirrel for instance, while some other species of the same genus are unchangeable.

Some animals are not less remarkable for being liable to change than others are remarkable for resisting every impression from vicissitude or difference of climate and other causes. For instance the Bengal tiger, *Felis Tigris*, is precisely the same in every tint, whether inhabiting the frozen shores of Lake Baikal in Siberia, or the jungle of Ceylon. The greatest extremes of climate appear alike congenial to this animal.

In the northwestern province of Delhi, Bishop Heber saw a *shaggy Elephant;* and he states that in the course of one or two winters, dogs brought from Europe become woolly in that region, and even horses undergo a similar change; but this tendency does not extend to the human race, for the inhabitants are remarkable for the length and straightness of their hair.

Dr. Morton also adverted to the fact that the wool of sheep becomes long and hairy in Guinea, where human hair is naturally woolly.

From these and many other facts he inferred that causes which produce changes in the lower animals cannot change man.

Differences in modes of life have been considered productive of changes in man. But if we examine the aborigines of America, from Canada to Terra del Fuego, we seek in vain for a woolly head; men are found with skins lighter or darker in color, but all are *Indians* in every characteristic, and this throughout a range of 10,000 miles. He questions whether any one ever saw a true Indian who could be mistaken for a being of any other race.

In Europe we trace families through many generations, either living in the extremes of affluence or of misery, yet never does one race merge into another, nor does a new race rise up among them.

Mr. W. B. Hodgson, Consul of the United States at Algiers, states there is a tribe of white men supposed to be derived from the lost tribes of Israel, now existing in the heart of the Negro territory; yet they have acquired no negro peculiarity, but are remarkable for all the characteristics of the white race—skin, hair and form. This is one of many similar examples.

Again, how does it happen that no Negro has ever been born as an accidental variety, among the Caucasian, Mongolian or other races?

It is vain to seek for the origin of Negro races in morbid change. No morbid change tends to perpetuity, but, on the contrary, it wears out sooner or later.

Dr. Morton conceives that there is a constant tendency in nature to restore and preserve a primitive type. A black man and white woman, or a black woman and white man, produce a hybrid offspring, and that hybrid reproducing in turn, one or other of the original types will sometimes occur in such progeny.

In Peru some Spanish families, two or three centuries since, intermarried with the Inca, or purely Indian race; and notwithstanding no further cross with the Indian stock has subsequently occurred in these families, the Indian characteristics are said occasionally to reappear even at the present time.

Asiatics may have landed ages ago upon this continent; but if they did so, they have all been swallowed up and lost, in the indigenous population; and no unequivocal trace of them remains in our Indian population. Before the landing of Columbus, as well as since, the New World has presented every possible vicissitude of climate which could be supposed to produce a negro or any other race, but not an individual of such a race has ever appeared.

Dr. M. added, that such was the effect of the blending of dissimilar types on the American continent, that he could produce, from among the colored population of this city, many of the diversified forms and colors that exist in Africa itself.

In the case of seven species of domestic fowl, Temminck has shown that five out of the seven cross among each other, and produce prolific hybrids, and then branch out into innumerable varieties: and the varieties of the domestic pigeon differ more among each other than some distinct genera of other animals.

Domestic cattle if bred *in and in*, dwindle. In Paraguay it is necessary to refresh the stock by importations from other pastures. Other domestic cattle also exhibit this peculiarity of hybrids.

If mulattoes were bred *in and in*, without resorting to the parent stock, they would soon become extinct.

A circular was read from the Committee of reception of the National Pacific Railroad Convention, now in Session in Philadelphia, asking permission of the Academy for the members of the Convention to visit the Museum; whereupon a resolution was adopted granting the desired permission.

April 9th.

Dr. Morton, President, in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy remarked that crystalline bodies had been detected in most of the tissues of many plants, but that their occurrence in animal tissues was much more rare. The deposit of earthy salts in many tissues, such as bone, enamel and shell, though analogous, was not homologous with crystallization. The earthy deposit in the shell of the egg of many animals is probably an instance of true crystallization within an animal tissue, for in those animals which have eggs with a semi-membranous shell, as many helices, &c, we can detect the carbonate of lime deposited in the form of regular rhombohedrons. He stated that he lately met with a remarkable instance of crystallization within animal organic cells. In examining the stomach of the larva of Arctia Isabella, a Lepidopterous insect, he found that the nucleus of every epithelial cell contained an octohedral crystal, the axes of which measured about the 1-3750th of an inch. The cells were colorless, (not white,) containing some faintly granular matter, which, in many instances, was collected into distinct rounded masses. The nuclei were round,